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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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INFORMATION REPORT

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

## REPORT

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CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

**SUBJECT** Economic

HOW PUBLISHED Periodical

WHERE PUBLISHED Albania

DATE  
PUBLISHED      January-March 1948

**LANGUAGE**      **French**

DATE OF INFORMATION 1989

DATE DIST. January 1949

NO. OF PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE L'Albanie Nouvelle, Vol II, No 1, 2, and 3, 1948. (Information requested.)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN ALBANIA

AGRICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN ALBANIA DURING 1947 -- No 1/2, Jan/Feb 48

The agrarian reform has given 94.7 percent of the land to the peasants, or five hectares for each family. Five percent belongs to the state, and only 0.25 percent to religious institutions. Under this reform, over one million olive trees were distributed and a certain number of farmers equipped with agricultural implements. The feudal tithe system was replaced by a tax graduated from 2 percent for the poor with an income of not over 10,000 leks, to 20 percent for those with an income of more than 100,000 leks.

Modern agricultural implements, now for sale in state-owned stores, were provided through the Yugoslav economic-aid program. In many areas farm-machinery stations from which a farmer may rent state-owned machinery at low rates have been created.

In 1947 the network of drainage and irrigation canals was 460 percent greater than before the war.

Certain less desirable crops are being replaced by the culture of heretofore little-known industrial plants. The culture of wheat, potatoes, rice, and industrial plants such as cotton and tobacco is being encouraged. Last year the farmers entered into contracts with the state, which furnishes them with seed, buys their crops, and provides their bread.

Though agricultural cooperatives increased sevenfold since 1946, they are only beginning. Their experiments in community property and implements have noticeably increased production.

Two agricultural schools (with 303 students) and 14 courses (with 754 students) have been opened. Last year the Government spent 241,000,000 leks on agriculture.

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Pastures have been nationalized, and commerce in meat has become a state monopoly. Though the war reduced the number of livestock by 26 percent, there are now 25 percent more than before the war.

Forests are being nationalized completely without compensation. Forest revenues exceed the 1938 level by more than four times, and reforestation is 1,800 percent above the prewar figure.

#### GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY IN ALBANIA -- No 1/2, Jan/Feb 48

Immediately after the liberation, the People's Government began to monopolize trade in wool, leather, cereals, oil, meat, etc., to halt and eventually eliminate speculation, the black market, and high prices. Now state stores and cooperatives furnish 94 percent of the population with consumer goods as well as prime necessities. Government stockpiling of cereals assures bread for the people at reasonable prices. Importation of a great volume of consumer goods from Yugoslavia also has been a factor in eliminating speculation, the black market, and the great merchants, as well as the control of what little private business remains. Only 6 percent of the commerce is in private hands, whereas in 1938 it was entirely in private hands.

In 1947 the state spent 183 million leks on commerce, and none in 1938. Then, only 75 percent of the population was supplied with prime necessities, while 90 percent now receive them, thanks to planning, just distribution, and low prices.

In 1945, when commerce was still in the hands of wholesale merchants, prices were 1,500 percent higher than in 1938, while in 1947 they had fallen to 250 percent and are still falling, due to the equalization of currency and coordination of economic plans with Yugoslavia.

In 1947, land transport facilities were 86 percent greater than in 1938; water transport was 53 percent greater.

#### INDUSTRIAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN ALBANIA DURING 1947 -- No 1/2, Jan/Feb 48

Albania is not an industrial country. Her industrial wealth consists chiefly of deposits of petroleum, chrome, copper, and asphalt, a few factories making cigarettes, oil, foods, and building materials, and some tanneries and electric power plants.

Before the war, 75.6 percent of Albanian industrial enterprises were financed by foreign capital, 22.6 percent of mixed, and only 1.8 percent by purely Albanian capital. Damage was heavy during the war. At the time of the liberation, the electric-power industry had fallen to 58 percent of its prewar level, the food industry to 19 percent, the textile industry to 33 percent, mechanical industries to 40 percent, and the building materials industry to 35 percent.

Under the People's Government, all industrial resources were nationalized without compensation, simultaneously with the means of production. The state founded its own enterprises, invested a great deal of capital, and began an intensive production program. Factories for oil, shoes, marmalade, matches, cord, and food were established. A hydroelectric power plant at Selita and a sugar factory are now under construction. With the cooperation of Yugoslavia, which among other services furnished raw materials, industrial production has definitely surpassed prewar levels.

The next project planned by the government is the creation, with Yugoslav aid, of a light industry for processing agricultural products.

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## AGRICULTURAL PLAN FOR 1948 -- No 3, Mar 48

The agricultural plan for 1948 provides for a 91 percent increase in planted area over the prewar figure. This year there will be large-scale planting of industrial crops. The total of 14,561 hectares planted last year included only 3,200 hectares of cotton, while 29,000 hectares will be planted this year in industrial plants alone, including 10,000 hectares of cotton, or 1,305 percent of the prewar figure. This year, state agricultural-machinery stations will work 34,000 hectares.

## COMMERCIAL PLAN FOR 1948 -- No 3, Mar 48

The commercial plan for 1948 provides for an increase of 33 percent over last year in consumer goods produced locally or imported from Yugoslavia.

The monthly bread ration in Albania this year is 27 kilograms; meat, 2 kilograms; oil, 650 grams; paste products and beans, 700 grams; etc.

There were 100 state stores at the beginning of 1947, 220 by the end of the year, and there will be 320 by the end of 1948. This year the volume of business transacted by these stores should increase 30 percent above last year's billion-lek figure. Cooperatives, as auxiliary commercial establishments, doubled last year, and this year will increase another 30 percent. The 1,700 privately owned stores, which did a 150 million-lek business last year, will be restricted to a minimum.

Last year exports were 16 times greater than before the war, and this year will exceed the 1947 figure 3.8 times. With the help of Yugoslavia and its 2 million-lek contribution, exports will surpass prewar levels 800 percent. Eighty-nine million three hundred thousand leks will be invested by the state on land transportation and 56,270,000 on water transport, besides 415 million to be spent on railways. Thus, land transport will increase by 50 percent over last year and water transport by 259 percent. The railways will carry 7.6 percent of the volume of traffic.

## EXPLOITATION OF THE BULQIZA MINE -- No 3, Mar 48

Exploitation of the great chrome mine of Bulqiza in the Shapence district began 20 February 1948, with Yugoslav technical aid. The construction of a new cable railway, about 1,350 meters long, permits rapid transport of the mineral.

The plan for 1948 provides for 177 percent greater chrome production than before the war.

## PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM IN ALBANIA -- No 3, Mar 48

According to the plan for 1948, the Government will spend 262,996,000 leks, or 198 percent of last year's total, on public health, including 60 million leks for preventive and social measures and the control of contagious diseases and malaria.

Last year hospital capacity rose to 2,790 beds, an increase of 380 percent over the prewar figure; 29,855 patients, or 275 percent more, received medical treatment, 31.8 percent of them without charge. Last year 24 rural hospitals were founded, and the number of ambulances rose to 118, or 327 percent of the prewar figure.

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In 1948, 3,105,000 leks will be spent fighting malaria and tuberculosis.  
Five new rural hospitals, 86 ambulances, 6 health centers, 2 tuberculosis  
clinics, and 10 malaria dispensaries are to be added.

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